

titled "The Placentation of the Manatee (*Trichechus latirostris*)."

Jeffries Wyman, Jr., assistant professor of zoology, for an investigation of the electrical properties of amino acids, peptides and proteins.

Henry B. Bigelow, professor of zoology and curator of oceanography, to study and report on the siphonophores collected by Dr. Johannes Schmidt.

Ancel Keys, instructor in biochemical sciences; David B. Dill, assistant professor of biological chemistry; William H. Forbes, instructor in biochemical sciences; John H. Talbott, instructor in medicine, to defray partially the cost of a study of the adaptation of man and animals to life at high altitudes.

The Milton Fund was established in 1924 under the will of William F. Milton, '58, which provided that the grants should be made "in the interests of or for promoting the physical and material welfare and prosperity of the human race, or to assist in the discovery and perfecting of any special means of alleviating or curing human disease, or to investigate and determine the value or importance of any discovery or invention."

CENTRALIZING BELL SYSTEM RESEARCHES

BEFORE there was a telephone there was a telephone laboratory. In a corner of a Boston workshop Alexander Graham Bell carried on his researches. Ever since that time the parent company of the Bell Telephone System, which evolved from his invention, has maintained a telephone laboratory. In the early years of the Bell System the laboratory was at its headquarters in Boston. Two other laboratories, meanwhile, developed in conjunction with the Western Electric Company, the manufacturing unit—one in Chicago, and the other in New York. In 1907, these three laboratories were consolidated into a single unit in New York City. This combination of laboratories was then operated as the Engineering Department of the Western Electric Company.

Not all, however, the research problems of communication, in which the American Telephone and Telegraph Company was interested, were of a laboratory character. In its own organization, therefore, that company continued to maintain a development and research group. This group stood intermediate between the laboratory research and the actual operation of communication systems.

By 1925 the work of the laboratory unit had so grown in range and in intensity, and the magnitude of the personnel involved, that it could best be carried on in a corporation devoted solely to research and development. The organization, therefore, which had been maintained and operated as the Engineering Department of the Western Electric Company since 1907, was incorporated as Bell Telephone Laboratories. Its dual responsibility to the American Tele-

phone and Telegraph Company, for fundamental researches, and to the Western Electric Company as the manufacturing unit of the system, for the embodiment of the results of these researches in designs suitable for manufacture, was emphasized in its corporate organization. The laboratory company is owned jointly by the American Company and by the Western Electric.

In the executive direction of the work of the laboratories there was emphasized the responsibility, which the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has assumed, as the corporate successor of Alexander Graham Bell, for ensuring to its associated companies in the system the technical progress of the communication arts. This was accomplished in part by organization and in part by the choice of executive personnel. As president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories there was elected Dr. F. B. Jewett. Dr. Jewett was also elected vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to have charge of its research and development activities. Coordination of all the research activities within the American Company and within the laboratory unit was thereby assured under the supervision of a single executive.

It was while the laboratories were operated as the Engineering Department of the Western Electric Company that there came into existence the laboratory group known as the "Research Department." Its head in its early days was Dr. E. H. Colpitts, who had entered the Bell System in its Boston laboratory. In 1924 he returned to the American Company as assistant vice-president to take charge, under General Carty, of the "Development and Research Department" of that company; and he continued in that capacity under Dr. Jewett.

The Department of Development and Research in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has had that particular name only since 1919. Its characteristic activities, however, preceded by years the adoption of its name, for they were part of those of the Engineering Department of the American Company. That department, organized under General J. J. Carty, as chief engineer, was concerned with the technical progress of the telephone art, the establishment and maintenance of suitable standards, and the solution of peculiar problems arising in the operating field.

In 1919 there was taken another step in functional organization. The much augmented engineering department was divided into two groups, namely, that concerned with problems of operation and engineering and that concerned with problems of development and research. The first-mentioned problems became the particular care of Bancroft Gherardi, who was then appointed vice-president of the American Tele-

phone and Telegraph Company; and the research problems continued to be the care of vice-president J. J. Carty (deceased in 1932). It was to the leadership of this department that Dr. Jewett succeeded when he returned to the American Company from the Western Electric.

On March 1, 1934, a further centralization of the research activities of the Bell System was accomplished. The Development and Research Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Laboratories were consolidated. All their activities are now carried on under the corporate name of Bell Telephone Laboratories. A year earlier, when this centralization was first definitely projected,

Mr. Colpitts was elected vice-president of the Laboratories, in charge of its operation. These two units, which are now merged, have had, therefore, for almost a year, identical executives.

The combination with Bell Telephone Laboratories of the Development and Research Department of the American Company means an organization with a marked increase in responsibilities, and concurrently a commensurate increase in its technical efficiency. The direction of the enlarged organization continues to be the responsibility of Dr. Jewett in his dual capacity as vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.—*A Correspondent.*

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE NEW ORLEANS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE annual meeting of the New Orleans Academy of Sciences, commemorating the eighty-first year of its existence, was held on March 23 and 24 on the campus of Tulane University. The attendance was probably the largest in the history of the academy.

This meeting concluded the presidency of Robert Glenk, curator of the Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans, the outstanding features of whose administration were the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws, the presentation of monthly popular science lectures to stimulate an interest in science in the community; the sponsoring of radio talks and the presentation of an elaborate program of scientific papers at the annual meeting.

There were 42 papers read at the meeting, classified as follows: Section A (physical sciences), 9; Section B (chemical sciences), 7; Section C (biological sciences), 8; Section D (medical sciences), 6; Section F (social sciences), 12.

The large attendance indicated a lively interest in the proceedings. Thirty-six applications for membership in the academy were received and acted upon at the meeting. Others are still coming in.

At the election of officers for the ensuing year, the academy distinguished itself by honoring Dr. I. M. Cline, president of the American Meteorological Society and principal meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau at New Orleans, with the presidency. Other officers elected were: Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust, *vice-president*; Dr. Daniel S. Elliott, *treasurer*, and Mr. E. L. Demmon, *secretary*.

For the coming year's activities the formation of a junior academy affiliation is to be earnestly promoted.

ROBERT GLENK,
President, 1933-34

THE TEXAS ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Texas Entomological Society held its sixth annual meeting at the Rice Hotel in Houston, Texas, on January 26 and 27. The officers for 1933 were: *President*, E. W. Laake, U. S. Bureau of Entomology, Dallas; *vice-president*, E. V. Walter, U. S. Bureau of Entomology, San Antonio; *secretary-treasurer*, M. A. Stewart, The Rice Institute, Houston. An informal smoker was held for early arrivals on the night of January 25 and the annual dinner was held on the night of the 26th, with F. L. Thomas, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, serving as toastmaster. The address at the dinner was given by Dr. Alfonso Dampf, chief entomologist, Mexican Plant Protection Service, Mexico, D. F., on "The Status of Entomological Exploration in Mexico." The special guest of honor and official representatives in attendance at the meeting were: Dr. Alfonso Dampf, chief entomologist, Mexican Plant Protection Service, Mexico, D. F., official representative of Sr. Don Francisco S. Elias, secretary of agriculture of Mexico; Dr. W. E. Hinds, entomologist, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Baton Rouge, past-president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and official representative of that association; and Dr. M. D. Leonard, research entomologist for John Powell and Company, of New York City, Orlando, Florida, official representative of the Florida Entomological Society. The total attendance was fifty-three. Thirty-one papers on various phases of entomology were presented. The officers elected for 1934 are: *President*, F. L. Thomas, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station; *vice-president*, F. A. Fenton, U. S. Bureau of Entomology, Presidio; *honorary vice-president*, Alfonso Dampf, Mexican Plant Protection Service, Mexico, D. F.; *secretary-treasurer*, M. A. Stewart, The Rice Institute, Houston.